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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Ricoh Company, Ltd.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

NONE

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7) |
| X | US 3 736 134 A (D W GOSSELINK) 29 May 1973 (1973-05-29) * column 3, line 66 - column 4, line 57; claims 1-17; examples 15-38 * | 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 18, 26, 30, 32 | G03G5/05 G03G5/147 |
| X | DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199241 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A04, AN 1992-336267 XP002189126 & JP 04 240656 A (MATSUSHITA), 27 August 1992 (1992-08-27) * abstract * | 1-7, 9, 13, 26, 30, 32 | |
| X | US 4 820 620 A (D J CAROLLA) 11 April 1989 (1989-04-11) * column 3, line 33 - column 4, line 14; claims 1, 2 * * column 5, line 41 - line 52; examples 3-7, 12-24 * | 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 26, 30, 32 | |
| X | EP 0 655 654 A (FUJI ELECTRONIC) 31 May 1995 (1995-05-31) * page 4, line 17 - page 5, line 39; claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9; figure 1 * | 1-7, 9, 10, 19, 20, 22, 23, 30, 32 | |
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| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 4 February 2002 | Examiner Vanhecke, H |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | | |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document | | T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | |

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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